

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions or listings of claims pending in the application:

1. (previously amended) A chromatographic column assembly comprising:
a column support structure comprising at least one ring,
a wound tubular chromatographic column mounted on the column support structure,
and
a carrier connected to the support structure along the at least one ring, extending
generally along a plane of the at least one ring between opposite sides of the at
least one ring, the carrier including at least one connecting part for connecting
the carrier to the support structure.
2. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is in the
form of a strip.
3. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one
connecting part comprises an aperture in the carrier.
4. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a further
connecting part for connecting the carrier to a further chromatographic column
assembly comprising a further support structure and a further wound chromatographic
column mounted on the further support structure.
5. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier
comprises metal.
6. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier includes
at least one part adapted for mounting a chromatographic column connector thereon.
7. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the carrier includes
at least one part for displaying information.

8. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a device for holding a chromatographic column.
9. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, the carrier including a measurement indicia.
10. (previously canceled)
- 10-11. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the column support structure includes one or more connectors for connecting to the carrier.
- 11-12. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein each connector comprises a hook.
- 12-13. (previously amended) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the column support structure comprises upper and lower rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, at least one of the connecting bars forming the one or more connectors.
- 14-16 (canceled)
- 13-17. (previously amended) A chromatography column assembly comprising:
a first column support structure comprising a pair of generally parallel rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, each of the connecting bars extending between a first ring of the pair of rings and a second ring of the pair of rings,
a first tubular gas chromatographic column wound around the first column support structure; and
a strip-shaped carrier attached to the first column support structure substantially at two opposite ends of the carrier, for allowing a user to carry the chromatographic column assembly, the carrier being connected to the column support structure along at least one of the pair of rings, and extending generally along a plane of the at least one of the pair of ring between opposite sides of the at least one of the pair of rings.

14 ~~18.~~ (previously amended) The assembly of claim ¹³17, further comprising a second column support structure and a second tubular gas chromatographic column wound around the second column support structure, wherein the second column support structure is positioned concentrically within the first column support structure and is attached to the carrier.

19-20. (previously canceled)

15 ~~21.~~ (previously added) A method of assembling a gas chromatographic column assembly, comprising:
winding a first tubular gas chromatographic column around a first column support structure, the first column support structure comprising at least one ring;
connecting a carrier to the support structure along the at least one ring, such that the carrier extends generally along a plane of the at least one ring between opposite sides of the at least one ring, the carrier including at least one connecting part for connecting the carrier to the support structure.

16 ~~22.~~ (previously added)) The method of claim ²¹19, further comprising:
winding a second tubular gas chromatographic column around a second column support structure;
disposing the second column support structure concentrically within the first column support structure; and
attaching the carrier to the second column support structure.

17 ~~23.~~ (previously added)) A chromatographic column assembly comprising:
a chromatographic column support structure for winding a chromatographic column thereon, the column support structure comprising at least one ring, and
a carrier connected to the support structure at opposite sides of the at least one ring, and extending generally along a plane of the at least one ring.

18 ~~24.~~ (previously added)) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, wherein the carrier is shaped as a strip having a major surface substantially parallel to the plane of the at least one ring.

- ¹⁹25. (previously added)) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, wherein the column support structure comprises a pair of hooks situated along opposite sides of the at least one ring, and wherein the carrier comprises a first pair of apertures positioned at opposite ends of the carrier, for receiving the pair of hooks to secure the carrier to the column support structure.
- ²⁰26. (previously added) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, wherein the carrier comprises a second pair of apertures positioned inward relative to the first pair of apertures, for receiving a further pair of hooks of a further column support structure.
- ²¹27. (previously added) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, further comprising a chromatographic column connector mounted on the carrier, for fluidically connecting to the chromatographic column.
- ²²28. (previously added) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, wherein the carrier includes an information display substantially parallel to the at least one ring.
- ²³29. (previously added) An assembly according to claim ²²28, wherein the information display comprises a distance measurement indicator.
- ²⁴30. (previously added) An assembly according to claim ¹⁷23, wherein the column support structure comprises upper and lower parallel rings connected by a plurality of connecting bars, the connecting bars supporting the chromatographic column.

31-37. (canceled)